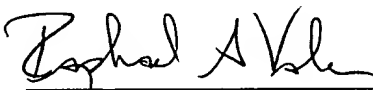


### CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and such disposition is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference or interview would advance prosecution of this application in any manner, the undersigned stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

It is believed that no fee is due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment. In the event that it is determined that a fee is due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account number 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
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Dated: January 29, 2001